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SCIENTIFIC - TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

COLLECTION BRANCH

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21 August 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, ICAPS
Attention: Colonel John B. Sherman

SUBJECT: Collection of Scientific Intelligence.

1. In compliance with verbal instructions received in your Office on the morning of 20 August, memorandum, copy attached, was hand-carried to each, State, War, Air, and Navy Departments.
2. Memorandum was deliberately prepared to allow individual interpretations and individual expressions of opinion by the several departments in the event they were not prepared to answer specifically. Following are briefs of the replies from each department:

a. State.

The State Department evaded committing itself on either its present capacity for collecting scientific intelligence or its future policy relative to assigning scientifically qualified reporting personnel to its foreign missions. The Department reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate in CIG Collection Study No. 7, which is now in process of coordination with the different departments, and which, when completed, is intended to constitute a comprehensive study of collection capabilities of each IAB department in several geographic areas, and in numerous fields of intelligence.

b. War.

The War Department stated that in general they were at present capable in all countries of making satisfactory collection of military scientific intelligence and that its future consistent policy would be to maintain this capability. War Department made no comment on their present capability or future policy with regard to the collection of non-military scientific intelligence, but did offer the information that they had in the last few months attached a few civilian scientists to their Military Attaches' offices, and that they hoped to increase the number of such scientists in the field.

c. Navy.

The Navy Department stated that in the countries listed in the memorandum with the exception of Germany and Japan they were not now capable of collection of satisfactory scientific intelligence, and that its future policy did not contemplate assigning individuals especially qualified for scientific collection to the field.

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d. Air.

Army Air Forces stated that they were currently capable of collecting scientific information of air interest and that its policy would be to continue this capability in the future. No mention was made of the collection of scientific intelligence not primarily aeronautical in nature.

3. Conclusions.

a. All concerned recognized the need for improved U.S. capacity for collection of scientific intelligence.

b. Navy Department and CIG state their capacities to be inadequate.

c. War and Air state their capacities to be adequate in their respective fields only.

d. State Department makes no statement.

e. The previously discussed plan whereby CIG would select and pay scientific attaches to be administered by the State Department, if implemented, would considerably improve present or prospective scientific collection capabilities.

4. Expected Reactions.

a. It is expected that State Department will oppose such a plan on the grounds of its constituting an additional administrative burden, and it is expected that the War Department will oppose it on the grounds that they prefer to augment their own embryonic scientific net.

b. It is expected that Navy and Air will be rather indifferent to the whole matter.

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION:

R. H. WISE
Colonel, A.C.
Acting Chief,
Collection Branch

Attachments:

cc Memo to Chief of Naval Intelligence,
20 Aug. 47, "Collection of Scientific
Intelligence."
Original incoming memoranda from Navy,
State, War and Air in response to
memorandum of 20 Aug. 47 sent to them,
same content.

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